

February 18

Jonah 2:9

**“Vocal Sacrifice of
Thanksgiving”**

**But I will sacrifice
unto thee with the
voice of thanksgiving;
I will pay that
that I have vowed.
Salvation is of
the LORD.**

We may make
sacrifices to God
and we may offer
the giving of
thanks vocally,
but could the
very act of giving
thanks,
itself, be a
sacrifice
to God?

When one does not FEEL like thanking God but does it anyway, it is a sacrifice. When a person verbally thanks and praises God against his or her own feelings of fatigue, frustration, doubt, or disinterest, it is a sacrifice.

When you don't want to do something, but you do it anyway, that's a sacrifice. When it seems to almost hurt to do a

thing but you do it still,
that's a sacrifice.

We are encouraged to
thank and praise God
openly, especially when
things appear bleak,
overwhelming, or even
impossible.

During pleasant
situations, some have
said they would praise
God. That could be seen
as a vow or as a firm
agreement. With that in

mind, we might understand Jonah's words better. He said he would sacrifice to God with the voice of thanksgiving and would pay what he had vowed to pay.

So, he thanked God, the God of salvation—the One capable of saving him from that fishy situation, even when he did not feel like doing so. That's a principle of godliness.

It's a guide to deeper understanding. It shows that "the voice of thanksgiving"—even when we don't FEEL like it, can actually be an acceptable sacrifice to God.

It can be a plea, which reaches the ears of Yahweh, for help up and out of harsh conditions, because, as it is written in this very verse, "salvation is of the LORD".

We may wish to meditate
on the connection of
sacrificial thanksgiving
to God's divine
deliverance. And,
it certainly doesn't hurt
to offer a vocal sacrifice
of thanksgiving.